

**Listing of the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows and replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application with the following listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for searching data comprising:  
generating a temporally ranked set of search results of network-based data in response to a query, the step of generating the temporally ranked set of search results comprising:  
generating an initial set of search results;  
identifying a first portion of the initial search results having creation dates after a pre-determined threshold date;  
identifying a second portion of the initial search results having creation dates before the pre-determined threshold date;  
identifying in-links associated with each search result in the second portion of the search results;  
associating a time-based weight with each identified in-link using at least one of a creation time and a publication date for an in-linking source containing that in-link;  
assigning an exponential rate of decay to each time-based weight based on a time gap between a current time and at least one of the creation time and the publication date;  
assigning an aging factor to each result in the second portion of the initial search results, each aging factor comprising a rate at which the result to which it has been assigned decreases in importance; and  
ranking the second portion of the initial set of search results using the time-based weights and assigned aging factors associated with each search result to generate the temporally ranked set of search results.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the step of~~  
A method for searching data comprising:

generating a temporally ranked set of search results of network-based data in response to a query, the step of generating the temporally ranked set of search results comprising:

generating an initial set of search results;

identifying a first portion of the initial search results having creation dates after a pre-determined threshold date;

identifying a second portion of the initial search results having creation dates before the pre-determined threshold date;

identifying in-links associated with each search result in the second portion of the search results;

associating a time-based weight with each identified in-link using at least one of a creation time and a publication date for an in-linking source containing that in-link;

assigning a rate of decay comprises to each time-based weight by:

dividing the search results into a newer group comprising results created within a recent period of time and an older group comprising all remaining results;

assigning a weighted time rank to each result in the older group using each one of a plurality of potential rates of decay;

assigning a second ranking to each result in the older group based on a number of in-links to that result from results in the newer group;

calculating, for each potential rate of decay, a difference between the assigned weighted time rank and the assigned second ranking over all results in the older group;

identifying the potential rate of decay that minimizes the calculated difference between the weighted time rank and the second ranking; and

assigning the identified potential rate of decay to each time-based weight

assigning an aging factor to each result in the second portion of the initial search results, each aging factor comprising a rate at which the result to which it has been assigned decreases in importance; and

ranking the second portion of the initial set of search results using the time-based weights and assigned aging factors associated with each search result to generate the temporally ranked set of search results.

3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[3]], wherein the step of assigning the aging factor further comprises using in-links from in-linking sources associated with a newer group of the identified in-links associated with the second portion of the search results to in-linking sources associated with an older group of the identified links associated with the second portion of the search results to determine the aging factor.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising obtaining time and date information about each in-linking source from meta content associated with that in-linking source.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising ranking the first portion of the initial search results based on a reputation associated with authors of each result, a reputation associated with a repository where each result is located or a combination of author and repository reputation.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising ranking the initial set of search results based upon the reputation or content of each result.
9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing a computer executable code that when read by a computer causes the computer to perform a method for searching data comprising generating a temporally ranked set of search results of

network-based data in response to a query, said step of generating a temporally ranked set of search results comprising:

- generating an initial set of search results;
- identifying a first portion of the initial search results having creation dates after a pre-determined threshold date;
- identifying a second portion of the initial search results having creation dates before the pre-determined threshold date;
- identifying in-links associated with each search result in the second portion of the search results;
- associating a time-based weight with each identified in-link using at least one of a creation time and a publication date for an in-linking source containing that in-link;
- assigning an exponential rate of decay to each time-based weight based on a time gap between a current time and at least one of the creation time and the publication date;
- assigning an aging factor to each result in the second portion of the initial search results, each aging factor comprising a rate at which the result to which it has been assigned decreases in importance; and
- ranking the second portion of the initial set of search results using the time-based weights and assigned aging factors associated with each search result to generate the temporally ranked set of search results.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 10, wherein the step of assigning the aging factor further comprises using in-links from in-linking sources associated with a newer group of the identified in-links associated with the second portion of the search results to in-linking sources associated with an older group of the identified links associated with the second portion of the search results to determine the

aging factor.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 9, further comprising obtaining time and date information about each in-linking source from meta content associated with that in-linking source.
13. (Canceled)
14. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 10, further comprising ranking the first portion of the initial search results based on a reputation associated with authors of each result, a reputation associated with a repository where each result is located or a combination of author and repository reputation.
- 15-17. (Canceled)